

# Webb Defends Junior Boy's State Title

The 2014 Junior Boy's State Championship was one of the most anticipated showdowns of the 2014 State Tournament and the tension would build over the two weeks it took to finally get down to it. The Sunday of August 31<sup>st</sup> proved to be a no go due to the solid all day



rain event in Bardstown. The match took place the following Saturday on the Bardstown Court 4. A best three games out of five was in order as the State's top 2 Junior Boy's would duke it

out. Uncertainty was in the air during the lead up as Tyler Howard had a new found resurgence in his game in the three weeks prior, breaking the 80% barrier and really had his shoe looking good. Ben Webb did not rest on his laurels and dedicated extra focus to his state preparation to take on this challenge. As game one got underway, you could tell Webb had some nerves going as both boys were jockeying to get settled into the battle at hand. An early thrust in the game could lead to an advantage or edge that could make the difference in the contest. Tyler Howard achieved that early edge by hitting 10 ringers out of first 12 shoes and squirting out to an 18-6 advantage. Webb would then get "settled in" and hit 8 in a row of his own and take the lead at 21-18. Tyler appeared to let some frustration creep into his game and this match began to get away from him in a hurry. Webb continued to rack up the points, pushing the lead to 36-18. Howard would battle back at this point and hit 8 straight but was only able to pick up 3 points and make it 36-21. Howard would let Webb out with

two singles against two Webb doubles for a final score of 42-21. Ben Webb got off to a good start in game two



connecting on 20 of 26 throws. Tyler made contact with 16 of his first 26. The score stood at 24-9, advantage Webb. Tyler would attempt to make a run and solidify his game by hitting 19 ringers out of next 22 shoes but Webb would not let up. During this stretch, Tyler had a run of 14 straight ringers that only produced 3 points. Tyler only had one open pit but Webb made him pay with a 6 pack. At the 50 shoe mark the score showed a Webb lead of 31-18. Webb would shut the game down with 8 straight ringers at 40-18. Webb averaged 81.0% for the game to Howard's 70.7% effort. Tyler Howard would have one more crack at it to keep his title hopes alive. Tyler made a valiant effort in game three, jumping out to a 21-7 lead and hitting 17 ringers out of his first 20 pitches. Webb would take the fight back at him in the next 20, hitting on 18 and overtaking Howard 28-27. Tyler would sniff the lead once more in the next inning with a 3 ringers 3 at 30-28. Webb would then hammer the final nails by cranking out a stretch run of 15 ringers out of his next 16 shoes for a final score of 43-33. The final tourney averages was 79.1% for Ben Webb, which is a new Junior State record, and 69.6% for Tyler Howard. I would like to commend both boys on a fine battle! You are both champions and two of the all-time best to represent our state! This Boy's State was a battle for the mental edge. One game swinging the other way

could have changed the whole picture but Ben Webb was able to maintain and manage the Tyler Howard runs.

## New Cadet Champ!

All year long the reigning Kentucky Cadet Champion, Seth O’Nan had a solid lock on the Division but unfortunately, due to a prior obligation, Seth was unable to participate in the State this year. You’ve gotta be in it to win it and this opened the door to opportunity for the State’s remaining Cadet field. The A Class contest was now set between Abby Rose, Sarah Neagle and Hadden Fuller to crown the new champ. Sarah Neagle lost her



opening game to Hadden Fuller 20-31 with her lowest game of the tourney but would pick up her labors and not look back, winning her next five games, taking the Cadet Championship. Sarah kept a close eye on the score in those games and was

able to come through with a ringer or point in the clutch when she most needed it to maintain a lead. The “Little Eagle” won the last five games: 30-10, 30-24, 31-22 over Rose and 30-22, 31-24 over Fuller. Hadden Fuller made a good account of himself pitching near 6% over his average at 14.3% and Abby Rose was just a tick below her average at 11.5%. Sarah averaged 13.3% in the big win for her first State Title! All three Junior Cadets were evenly matched and it was a close contest, making for a good three-way fight.



## Courtney Take 6!

Courtney Lampkin needed only to pitch to establish a percentage to claim her sixth Kentucky Junior Girl’s State Title.

A match was set to take place against Denisha Yantis, our other Junior Girl in the State but Denisha was unable to compete due



to illness. There should be no doubt as to who is the top Junior Girl in the State, as Courtney is ranked 13<sup>th</sup> nationally and has been the State’s top Girl’s player for the last seven years. Courtney paced in the Class B Elder Men and achieved an overall percentage of 30.67.

## Zack Wins Boys B!

I want to highlight all of our Juniors Horseshoe pitchers in this “Ringer” newsletter as they all pitch and practice hard to achieve their best effort. Their special zest for the game can be seen through these smiling faces and they are our sport’s future. We congratulate them! Zach



Hankins overcame the challenge presented by Leland Fuller by winning 3 straight games, 25-8, 37-21 & 25-18. Leland gave it great effort pitching

near 7% over his average but Zach proved too tough! Zach pitched 4% over his average for a 30.8% tourney!

## Cadet B Goes To Noah Snellen!



Maybe we should have called this class “Four Shades Of Green”? Noah Snellen came out on top in the Class B Cadets by going undefeated, winning all six games. Noah got his horseshoe career underway this season and took home the big trophy for his effort! Noah pitched a little over 3% above his average for a 7.78% tournament. Noah was in some close battles to take the class: 11-7 & 15-11 over Hanna Neagle, 16-14 & 15-10 over Caden Snellen & 17-1 & 17-3 over James Webb. Hanna Neagle pitched over her average to take second place, just edging Caden in percentage.

## State Doubles Championship Captured By Irvin & Hudnall!

John Irvin & Bob Hudnall took home their first State Doubles Championship as a team, although both have achieved the title separately in the past. Hudnall & Irvin received a strong challenge from the defending champions, Ben Webb & Randy Hankins. In the opening game Webb & Hankins had the Irvin & Hudnall team down 23-19 after 42 shoes in the 40 point contest. Irvin & Hudnall would pull away down the stretch to win the game 40-26. Hudnall & Irvin would cruise through their

next two games, defeating the team of Bill Garrett & Ted Sauer 43-11 and the team of Tyler Howard & Johnnie Jones 45-7. Round 2 brought the re-match with Webb & Hankins and it would prove to be another hard fought contest. Webb & Hankins held the early lead after 50 shoes 29-25 but the wheels would come off in the end game as Webb & Hankins only managed 4 ringers out of the next 12 shoes to let Irvin & Hudnall off the hook. The final score was 41-30. Irvin & Hudnall made quick work of Garrett & Sauer once again 42-1, hitting 24 ringers out of 26 shoes for a 92.3% game. With the Championship in hand, Hudnall & Irvin needed only to defeat Howard & Jones in the return match to cap off the day but Howard & Jones decided to take a little revenge for the earlier thrashing! Howard and Jones scored the opening 2 points and never trailed in the game, giving the top team one in the loss column with a 45-18 victory. This win catapulted Howard & Jones past Webb & Hankins for the second place trophies. Hudnall & Irvin’s



Team percentage of 64.9% is the highest State Doubles average thrown since averages has been kept. Bob Hudnall pitched 63.3% individually and John Irvin tossed in 66.4%. Runner-up finishers Johnnie Jones & Tyler Howard averaged 55.6% as a team. Tyler pitched 65.3% and Johnnie was a little off his game at 46.1%.



### Thanks!

*Thanks to the Bardstown Horseshoe Club for doing a great job organizing the 2014 Kentucky State Tourney!*